

Please amend the claims to read as indicated in the following list of claims:

1. [Currently amended] A method of processing data in a data processing system, the method comprising the steps of: processing input data provided in the format of a data file in said data processing system in accordance with a first set of rules, which operate in said data processing system, inter alia to define a stage at which such a processing operation ceases; applying to the partly-processed data a second set of rules, which operate in said data processing system to modify the data, so that the modified data may be processed in accordance with a third set of rules and then outputted as a output data file from said data processing system, wherein the method is used to canonicalize an RDF graph expressed as said input data, the RDF graph having a plurality of blank nodes,

wherein the first set of rules include generating a representation of the RDF graph and ordering the representation, the plurality of blank nodes being substantially omitted from the ordering process;

wherein the second set of rules include assigning a label to each of a number of the plurality of blank nodes and modifying the portion of the blank nodes remaining unlabelled; and

wherein the third set of rules include reordering the representation, the reordered representation comprising the output data.

2. [Original] A method according to claim 1 wherein the first and third sets of rules are the same.

3. [Original] A method according to claim 1 wherein the modification in accordance with the second set of rules modifies the data in a significant manner.

4. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 3 wherein the first and third set of rules reorder the data, but do not otherwise modify the data in a significant manner.

5. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 1 wherein the input data is graphically represented data.

6. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 5 wherein the input data is a text file describing an RDF graph.

7. [Original] A method according to claim 1 wherein the first set of rules perform a deterministic modification of the data.

8. [Original] A method according to claim 3 wherein the significant modifications include the deletion of significant data.

9. [Original] A method according to claim 3 wherein the significant modifications include the addition of significant data.

10. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 9 wherein the significant additions are distinguishable from

data which is, prior to performance of any modifications, significant.

11. [Original] A method according to claim 1 wherein the data describes an ontology.

12. [Original] A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of processing the data in accordance with the third set of rules.

13. [Original] A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step, subsequent to the processing of the data in accordance with the third set of rules; of writing or verifying a digital signature establishing authenticity of the data.

14. [Original] A method according to claim 1 wherein reapplying the method of claim 1 to data processed in accordance with such a method does not result in any further modification of the data.

15. [Original] A method of canonicalizing an RDF graph having a plurality of blank nodes, the method comprising: generating a representation of the RDF graph and ordering the representation, the plurality of blank nodes being substantially omitted from the ordering process; assigning a label to each of a number of the plurality of blank nodes; modifying the portion of the blank nodes remaining unlabelled; and reordering the representation.

16. [Original] A method according to claim 15, wherein the modification of the unlabelled blank nodes comprises deleting said blank nodes.

17. [Original] A method according to claim 15, wherein the modification of the unlabelled blank nodes comprises adding data to said representation such that the remaining unlabelled blank nodes can be labelled and labelling said blank nodes accordingly.

18. [Original] A method according to claim 15 wherein the representation is an N-Triple document and the ordering is in a lexicographic ordering.

19. [Currently amended] A computer program comprising program instructions embodied on a computer readable medium that, when loaded onto a computer, cause the computer to process data by: processing data in accordance with a first set of rules, which operate, inter alia to define a stage at which such a processing operation ceases; applying to the partly-processed data a second set of rules, which operate to modify the data, so that the modified data may be processed in accordance with a third set of rules, wherein the computer program is used to canonicalize an RDF graph expressed as said input data, the RDF graph having a plurality of blank nodes,

wherein the first set of rules include generating a representation of the RDF graph and ordering the representation, the plurality of blank nodes being substantially omitted from the ordering process;

wherein the second set of rules include assigning a label to each of a number of the plurality of blank nodes and modifying the portion of the blank nodes remaining unlabelled; and

wherein the third set of rules include reordering the representation, the reordered representation comprising the output data.

Claims 20 and 21. Cancelled.

22. [Currently amended] A computer program comprising program instructions embodied on a computer readable medium that, when loaded onto a computer, cause the computer to canonicalize an RDF graph having a plurality of blank nodes by: generating a representation corresponding to the RDF graph and ordering the representation, the plurality of blank nodes being substantially omitted from the ordering process; assigning a label to each of a number of the plurality of blank nodes; modifying the portion of the blank nodes remaining unlabelled; and reordering the representation.

Claims 23 - 24. Cancelled.

25. [Currently amended] A method of signing an RDF graph comprising the steps of: canonicalizing the graph by ordering triples from the graph and omitting blank nodes from the process of so ordering; and generating a signature in the form of a triple, wherein the method is used to canonicalize an RDF graph expressed as said input data, the RDF graph having a plurality of blank nodes,

wherein a first set of rules include generating a representation of the RDF graph and ordering the representation, the plurality of blank nodes being substantially omitted from the ordering process;

wherein a second set of rules include assigning a label to each of a number of the plurality of blank nodes and modifying the portion of the blank nodes remaining unlabelled; and

wherein a third set of rules include reordering the representation, the reordered representation comprising the output data.

26. [Original] A method according to claim 25 further comprising the step of including the signature triple with other triples of the graph.

Claim 27. Cancelled.

28. [Currently amended] A method according to claim [[27]] 1, wherein the modification of the unlabelled blank nodes comprises deleting said blank nodes.

29. [Currently amended] A method according to claim [[27]] 1, wherein the modification of the unlabelled blank nodes comprises adding data to said representation such that the remaining unlabelled blank nodes can be labelled and labelling said blank nodes accordingly.

30. [Currently amended] A method according to claim [[27]] 1 wherein the representation is an N-Triple document and the ordering is in a lexicographic ordering.

31. [Previously presented] A method according to claim 1 wherein said stage at which the processing operation ceases occurs prior to all of input data in said data file being processed by said data processing system.

32. [Previously presented] A computer program according to claim 19 wherein said stage at which the processing operation ceases occurs prior to all of the data being processed by said computer.